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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/773,573	02/09/2004	Tsutomu Kojima	P21-164404M/ISI	3561

21254 7590 06/20/2005

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EXAMINER

KENNEDY, JOSHUA T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3679

DATE MAILED: 06/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/773,573

Applicant(s)

KOJIMA ET AL.

Examiner

Joshua T. Kennedy

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JK

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 July 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-11 have been examined

Drawings

The drawings were received on 07/02/2004. These drawings are acceptable.

Specification

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because of minor informalities. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b). In the first sentence of the abstract, please change "securing the first panel member with the second panel member" to --securing a first panel member with a second panel member--.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yasuda (U.S. Patent No. 5,740,640).

Referring to claim 1. Yasuda discloses a securing clip for securing a first panel member with a second panel member, comprising:

a first fitting portion having the U-character shape for fitting a holed end portion of the first panel member (Yasuda Fig. 1); and

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a second fitting portion having the U-character shape for fitting a holed end portion of the second panel member (Fig. 1), wherein:

the securing clip being like the S-character in cross section (Fig. 1); and

each of the first fitting portion and the second fitting portion is formed with an engaging pawl (11a and 14, respectively) engaging a hole at the end portion of the corresponding panel member on an inner wall face of its own, and the second fitting portion is formed with an engagement wall engaging a regulation wall (12) provided on the second panel member.

Regarding claim 2. Yasuda discloses a securing clip according to claim 1, wherein the engagement wall exists in bilateral symmetry around the hole at the end portion of the second panel member (Fig. 1).

Regarding claim 3. Yasuda discloses a securing clip according to claim 1, wherein an engagement face of the engagement wall engaging the regulation wall is inclined with respect to a central axis of the hole at the end portion of the second panel member (Fig. 1).

Regarding claim 4. Yasuda discloses a securing clip according to claim 2, wherein an engagement face of the engagement wall engaging the regulation wall is inclined with respect to a central axis of the hole at the end portion of the second panel member (Fig. 1).

Regarding claim 5. Yasuda discloses a securing clip according to claim 1, further comprising a detachment grip portion (26a) for detaching the securing clip from the second panel member.

Regarding claim 6. Yasuda discloses a securing clip according to claim 2, further comprising a detachment grip portion (26a) for detaching the securing clip from the second panel member.

Regarding claim 7. Yasuda discloses a securing clip according to claim 3, further comprising a detachment grip portion (26a) for detaching the securing clip from the second panel member.

Regarding claim 8 . Yasuda discloses a securing clip according to claim 1, wherein a rib wall is protruded on an inner wall face of the second fitting portion (considered to be the protruded portion of the second fitting portion engaging 27 in Fig. 2).

Regarding claim 9. Yasuda discloses a securing clip according to claim 2, wherein a rib wall is protruded on an inner wall face of the second fitting portion (considered to be the protruded portion of the second fitting portion engaging 27 in Fig. 2).

Regarding claim 10. Yasuda discloses a securing clip according to claim 3, wherein a rib wall is protruded on an inner wall face of the second fitting portion (considered to be the protruded portion of the second fitting portion engaging 27 in Fig. 2).

Regarding claim 11. Yasuda discloses a securing clip according to claim 4, wherein a rib wall is protruded on an inner wall face of the second fitting portion (considered to be the protruded portion of the second fitting portion engaging 27 in Fig. 2).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent No 3,858,370 to Halstead cited to show a similar S- shaped clip comprising a first and second fitting portion formed with engaging pawls, a bilateral engagement wall and detachment grip.

U.S. Patent No 4,408,939 to Graff, et al cited to show a similar S- shaped clip comprising a first and second fitting portion formed with engaging pawls, a bilateral engagement wall and detachment grip for use in the production of automobiles.

U.S. Patent No 5,347,690 to Mansoor, et al cited to show to show a similar S- shaped clip comprising a first and second fitting portion formed with engaging pawls, a bilateral engagement wall and detachment grip for use in the production of automobiles.

U.S. Patent No 5,409,198 to Roick cited to show a similar S- shaped clip comprising a first and second fitting portion formed with engaging pawls, a bilateral engagement wall and detachment grip.

U.S. Patent No 6,327,758 to Petrakis cited to show a similar S- shaped clip comprising a first and second fitting portion formed with engaging pawls, a bilateral engagement wall and detachment grip.

U.S. Patent No 6,691,374 to Coyne cited to show a similar S- shaped clip comprising a first and second fitting portion formed with engaging pawls, a bilateral engagement wall and detachment grip.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joshua T. Kennedy whose telephone number is 571-272-8297. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 7am - 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



JTK
5/25/2005

DANIEL P. STODOLA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600